

COMMENCEMENT BAY NRDA RESTORATION

Fact Sheet TSM-1

Tahoma Salt Marsh - City Project 3

Working Draft February 19, 1998

TAHOMA SALT MARSH RESTORATION

VISION: The City of Tacoma will develop, as part of their Commencement Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (CB/NRDA) settlement, a salt marsh wetland restoration project on the Ruston Way shoreline within the City of Tacoma and Commencement Bay. The project will be developed on property that is presently owned by the United States for the use of the Washington State Military Department (National Guard, the property is generally referred to as the National Guard site. The property will be transferred to the City after a clean-up action is completed and a property transfer agreement executed. This site is referred to as site "RU-2" in the CB/NRDA Programmatic Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (1997).

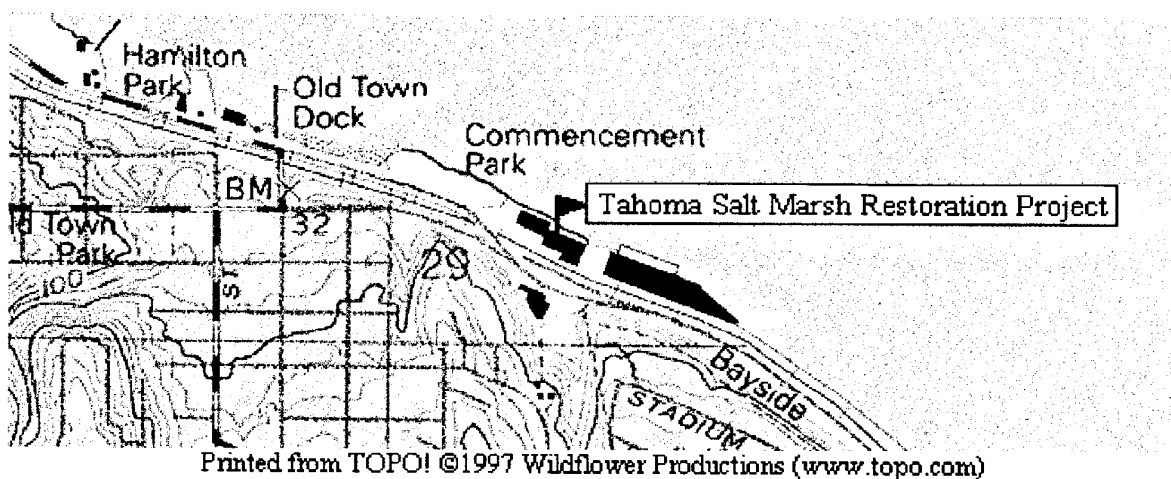
GOALS:

1. Create intertidal tideflat and emergent marsh habitat to provide nesting, refuge and feeding opportunities for a variety of fish and waterfowl species (e.g., salmon, juvenile flatfish, Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, plovers, sandpipers).
2. Provide a habitat linkage between nearshore habitat in the vicinity of Ruston Way/Pt. Defiance and the intertidal and riverine habitat near the mouth of the Puyallup River.
3. Provide a public education opportunity in close proximity to the Ruston Way shoreline to increase public awareness of the importance of this type of habitat in the ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Excavate or regrading of 1.95 acres on the property and the planting of native marsh and riparian vegetation.
2. Establish intertidal marsh and riparian buffer on a property now largely devoid of habitat value.
3. Create new habitat and provide habitat-appropriate public access for education and passive recreation.

PROJECT LOCATION:



**PART 1: SPECIFIC PROJECT ELEMENTS UNDER INITIAL
CONCEPT PLAN TO ACHIEVE GOAL:**

The restoration project will be situated on 1.5 acres of existing upland property formerly dominated by a dilapidated warehouse, and 0.45 acres of existing intertidal and subtidal land presently encumbered by large amounts of debris and remnants of the "Ruston Formation" (metallic machining wastes). Project elements include:

1. Pre-design subsurface exploration to provide additional information specific to this habitat restoration project.
2. Establishment of intertidal salt marsh (0.97 acres) and mudflat (0.30 acres) habitats in the central portion of the restoration project.
3. Restoration of beach area (0.45 acres) via the removal of debris, remnants of the Ruston Formation, and other anthropogenic materials.
4. Creation of a tidal channel through the restored beach area connecting the intertidal salt marsh to Commencement Bay.
5. Planting riparian areas (0.23 acres) with native vegetation.
6. Provisions for public access around the landward perimeter of the project site.
7. Provisions for monitoring and maintenance of the restoration project site.

PART 2: SCHEDULE AND STATUS REPORT:

1. The start date for this project is the date of the Consent Decree entry, December 30, 1997, plus two years except that the deed restrictions will be filed within 180 days of the entry of the Consent decree or acquisition.
2. A permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be filed within 30 days of the City of Tacoma notice of exemption or approval of the shoreline/wetlands permits.
3. Application for State Water Quality Certification and Hydraulic Permit application will be filed during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' review.
4. Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring/Adaptive Management Plans will be filed with the Natural Resource Trustees within 90 days of the Corps permit application.
5. Notice of completion will be filed with the Natural Resource Trustees within 300 days of the permit plan approval.
6. Tasks include:
 - a. Baseline Habitat Data Collection
 - b. Preliminary Design
 - c. Shoreline/Wetlands Permit Applications
 - d. Deed Restriction filed
 - e. Shoreline/Wetland Permit Review
 - f. City Shoreline/Wetland Permit approval
 - g. State Shoreline Permit Approval
 - h. Corps of Engineers' Permit Review
 - i. Final Design
 - j. Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring/Adaptive Management Plan drafting/approval
 - k. Bid and Contract
 - l. Construction oversight
 - m. Monitoring

How can the public stay informed and be involved?

Public participation is an important component of restoration planning by helping the Trustees select and shape restoration projects. You are encouraged to become involved in the restoration planning process because the natural resources in Commencement Bay are your resources. The CB/NRDA Trustees hold quarterly public meetings. If you have questions or would like to be on a mailing list to receive notice of opportunities to participate, please contact:

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Public notices and meetings will also be announced at <http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/cb.htm>.
Project Plans (attachments to the Consent Decree) may also be downloaded from this site.
